

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A processor supports a mode in which the default operand size is 32 bits, but  
5 which supports operand size overrides to 64 bits. Furthermore, the default operand size  
may automatically be overridden to 64 bits for instructions having an implicit stack  
pointer reference and for near branch instructions. The overriding of the default operand  
size may occur without requiring an operand size override encoding in these instructions.  
In one embodiment, the instruction set specifying the instructions may be a variable byte  
10 length instruction set (e.g. x86), and the operand size override encoding may be a prefix  
byte which increases the instruction length.